

**DOI-BLM-NM-P010-2011-57-EA**  
**Candidate Conservation Agreement**

**DECISION**

It is my decision to approve the Candidate Conservation Agreement Environmental Assessment as described in the proposed action and execute the procedure for issuing certificates of participation. The measures identified in the attached EA along with specific project design features relative to protecting lesser prairie-chicken and sand dune lizard habitat on public lands will be formulated into the certificates of participation. This decision incorporates, by reference, those measures identified in the attached Environmental Assessment.

**RATIONALE FOR DECISION**

Approval of the Proposed Action offers the widest range of opportunities to protect the habitats of the lesser prairie-chicken and sand dune lizard while involving the individuals businesses who would be most affected if either species were listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The proposed action will involve the approval and implementation of the Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Center of Excellence for Hazardous Materials Management (CEHMM), and Participating Cooperators to address the conservation needs of the LPC and SDL in southeastern New Mexico.

The ultimate goal of the conservation agreement will be to facilitate conservation of habitat for the lesser prairie-chicken (LPC) and sand dune lizard (SDL) in southeastern New Mexico. Conservation measures that benefit the LPC will include, but not be limited to, improving habitat and increasing populations by coordinating vegetation treatments with ongoing activities, decreasing habitat fragmentation, propagating and releasing and/or translocating individuals, and conducting research conducive to adaptive management of the LPC. Measures that benefit the SDL will include, but not be limited to, maintaining existing habitat, preventing further habitat fragmentation, and conducting research conducive to adaptive management of the SDL.

The proposed action is in conformance with the 1997 Roswell Resource Management Plan (RMP) and the 2008 Special Status Species RMP Amendment.

The finding of no significant impact (FONSI) was signed on December 20, 2010, and was posted for protest along with a proposed decision. The Pecos District received no protests or appeals of the FONSI or the proposed decision. In the absence of protests or appeals, this decision is final and the proposed action can be implemented.

/s/ Douglas J. Burger  
Douglas J. Burger  
Pecos District Manager

2/10/2011  
Date